called hand-foot and mouth disease (HFMD, occurred in Mallapuram District of Kerala during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to control the above disease and the number of affected as on today; and

(c) the details of reasons for the outbreak of this rare child disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Government, about 100 cases of Hand-Foot and mouth disease were reported by private practitioners, especially pediatricians. The reported cases have been diagnosed only clinically and not confirmed by any laboratory investigations. This is a rare viral disease and it needs only symptomatic treatment.

The Hand-Foot and mouth disease spreads through contaminated food and water. The virus transmits through feco-oral route. Awareness programmes are initiated in the affected areas about the importance of the prevention of the disease. Health education classes are imparted to improve the hygiene status of the community in order to prevent the occurrence of this disease.

Expansion of Safdarjung hospital

†1905 PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made an expansion plan for Safdarjung hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c)the funds proposed to be allocated by Government for the implementation of this plan; and

(d) by when this plan would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (b) While modernization/provision of latest equipment/ restructuring/ addition of new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

facilities in any hospital is a continuous on-going process, at present, no proposal is under consideration for expansion of Safdarjung Hospital.

Malnutrition and maternal mortality in India

1906. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has expressed its dissatisfaction over the condition of health services in India; and

(b) if so, whether the problems regarding maternal mortality and malnutrition among the children are very critical in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the World Health Report 2005 released by the WHO ranks India amongst the 51 countries which have shown a slow decline in reducing infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio.

The National Population Policy-2000 and the National Health Policy-2002 have laid down goals for bringing down the infant mortality rate to less that 30 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality ratio to less than 100 per 100,000 live births by the year 2010. Malnutrition is also a challenge occurring due to the factors like poverty, lack of nutritional awareness, unsafe drinking water, sanitation etc. The Government. has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission to tackle health problems in a holistic manner, while the Mission is applicable to the entire country, it has its spl. Focus on 18 States, which have poor health and demographic indicators.

Lack of equipment in hospital in Delhi

1907. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of hospitals are having acute shortage of latest equipment in Delhi/New Delhi due to which several people have lost their lives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of such cases in Safdarjung and